

Application No.: 10/620,061

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Docket No.: 595792000121

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) A method of lowering the salt content of soil, said method comprising:

- a) cultivating the non-naturally occurring a transgenic plant of claim 1 comprising a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a vacuolar Na⁺/H⁺ transporter in the soil, wherein the soil has an initial electrical conductivity; and
- b) harvesting the non-naturally occurring transgenic plant; and
- c) removing the non-naturally occurring plant.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the initial electrical conductivity of the soil is at least 20 dS/M.

Claim 23 (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the recombinant nucleic acid encoding a vacuolar Na⁺/H⁺ transporter is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (b) a nucleic acid molecule encoding the same amino acid sequence as encoded by the nucleotide sequence of (a);
- (c) a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to the complement of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 under highly stringent conditions that include at least one wash in 0.1x SSC, 0.1% SDS, at 65° C for thirty minutes; and
- (d) a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to the complement of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 under moderately stringent conditions that includes at least one wash in 0.1x SSC, 0.1% SDS, at 50° C for thirty minutes.

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Claim 24 (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the recombinant nucleic acid encoding a vacuolar Na^+/H^+ transporter is a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 25 (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the recombinant nucleic acid encoding a vacuolar Na^+/H^+ transporter is a nucleic acid molecule encoding the same amino acid sequence as encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 26 (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the recombinant nucleic acid encoding a vacuolar Na^+/H^+ transporter is a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to the complement of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 under highly stringent conditions that include at least one wash in 0.1x SSC, 0.1% SDS, at 65° C for thirty minutes.

Claim 27 (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the recombinant nucleic acid encoding a vacuolar Na^+/H^+ transporter is a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to the complement of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 under moderately stringent conditions that includes at least one wash in 0.1x SSC, 0.1% SDS, at 50° C for thirty minutes.

Claim 28 (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the transgenic plant further comprises a second recombinant nucleic acid operably linked to the recombinant nucleic acid encoding a vacuolar Na^+/H^+ transporter, wherein the second recombinant nucleic acid comprises a plant promoter.

Claim 29 (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the plant promoter is the 35S promoter.

Claim 30 (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the plant promoter is the CaMV promoter.

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Claim 31 (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the transgenic plant is canola or safflower.

Claim 32 (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the transgenic plant is canola.

Claim 33 (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the transgenic plant is safflower.

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